

lay the context in which my concerns were raised about this very large project in Springfield.

I guess now we are down to the point where we have to ask the big question: Is the proposed Abraham Lincoln Library in Springfield, IL, another insider deal? I certainly hope it doesn't become one. This may or may not be now. We will not know until it is done. But we should do our very best to prevent it from becoming one.

We have said if we don't have careful controls, the money could wind up in private hands. It wouldn't have to be competitively bid under the language in the conference report. If the money winds up in State hands, then under the language that passed out of the House in the conference report, and which the Senate has basically said they don't like because it doesn't have Federal competitive bidding in it, if the money went to a private entity and went to the State—we have seen the State without competitive bidding. I would hate to see the monument to "Honest Abe" discussed in one of these many articles that have been written by investigative reporters. Competitive bidding could be opted out if it were the Capital Development Board that were doing the project.

As I pointed out, it is not unusual for the State to have to live within Federal competitive bid guidelines. This is not an unusual request. Then there is the State code. The State procurement code specifically contemplates the application of Federal guidelines such as these Federal competitive guidelines.

Are there red flags on this project? I want to sum those up again. We talked earlier in the day about some of the red flags.

We had the cost of the project increasing as the project has been talked about over the last few years. It started out as a proposed \$40 million project in February of 1998. It went to a \$60 million project 13 months later, in March of 1999. When I first came to the Senate, it was a \$60 million project. Then one month after that, the next report said it was a \$148 million project—up from the most recent \$60 million estimate on advice from "designers and fiscal advisers." That raised the red flag in my mind. I thought we had to bird-dog this project. After all, that is a big expenditure in any city, and it is certainly a big expenditure in the city of Springfield, our State capital.

The estimated cost, adjusted for inflation, of our State capitol is only \$70 million compared to the \$148 million that we saw referred to there, and now the \$120 million that they are talking about for this library.

The cost of other buildings in Springfield: the Willard Ice Building is a \$70 million building; the Prairie Capital Convention Center is a \$60 million building.

We are really talking about a very visible project in Springfield. We discussed the location as well of this library. We noted its proximity to the Springfield Ramada Renaissance Hotel. We talked at length about the history of the Springfield Renaissance Hotel. We noted that this project is intended to and will stimulate tourism, if it is done right, in the city of Springfield. That hotel stands to benefit from that. It would be nice if we could get some payments on that \$15 million State loan from back in 1982 to build that.

We have not yet noted, and I think we need to note, that Mr. Cellini, whom we have discussed, has been active in seeking to raise money for the private foundation that is connected to the library. Let me see if I can focus on that for one second and find a citation for you, Mr. President. There are newspaper articles, I believe, that suggest he has been out actively trying to raise money for the library. I would like to find that citation.

Incidentally, I should also mention that the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library cost \$65 million.

It is a State Journal Register article from September 5, 1999, a little over a year ago:

William Cellini reported to be heading private fundraising drive for the project.

So we are beginning to connect this all back into some of the projects we have read about throughout the course of the day. These are connecting threads, and set against the backdrop of procurement history and controversy in Illinois, I think there is good reason for Congress to be careful with this project. I think it is reasonable to look at all these red flags and say, this \$50 million in Federal money, we better make sure it is buttoned down; better be careful, we don't want to happen to this money what has sometimes happened in the past. We don't want this project ever to be the subject of one of these investigative reports in one of our State's fine newspapers.

In light of the time restraints we are running up against tonight, the hour is late and I recognize that, I thank my colleagues again for all their support, for going on record in favor of competitive bidding in accordance with the Federal competitive bidding guidelines. I certainly hope the House will reconsider the position that has come out of the House in opposition to buttoning down this money and having tighter controls on it, to make sure that none of it winds up being involved in an insider deal, and that Springfield gets \$120 million worth of value out of the \$120 million that is intended to be spent on this monument for Abraham Lincoln.

Some may wonder why I have sought to filibuster the Interior appropriations bill over this matter. They would note \$50 million is a substantial

amount, but as a percentage of the entire appropriations bill, it is relatively small in comparison. There are literally countless projects throughout the country that are contained in that bill. I believed it was important to come to the floor and to lay out this case because it goes to the very heart of the appropriations process in Washington.

I understand those who oppose the competitive bidding will eventually have a good opportunity to move their bill and make sure the competitive bidding isn't in there. But I hope we are going to have illumination here. I think the people of Illinois can know who their government is and what it is about. I think that the people of this country may see, through the prism of Illinois, how serious and consequential the ethical foundations of their government can and must be.

This issue of whether we make sure this money is competitively bid goes to the very heart of the appropriations process. We ought to take great care of the people's money. The people's money represents precious hours of hard work, sweat, and time away from family. The American people are fundamentally generous, and they will permit reasonable expenditures for the good of their country, their communities, and their State. However, Mr. President, don't abuse them. Do your best to make sure that there are sufficient safeguards so the people can know that their taxpayer dollars will not simply be trampled on by political insiders. That is what bothers me personally, eats at me—the people who oppose provisions such as this act, as though \$50 million in taxpayer money is a quarter. How can we ever put too many controls on taxpayer money? Why would anyone not welcome even more stringent competitive bid rules? Why would anybody oppose that? I can't think of a good reason.

The backdrop of problems we have had in the State of Illinois for a long time, which I illuminated today, and the legacy of insider dealing make me very reluctant to turn over this particular \$120 million without doing everything I can to protect it.

I thank all of those who have stayed with me tonight, and I yield the floor.

RECESS UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 5, 2000.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:25 p.m., recessed until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, October 5, 2000.